

FOUNDERS DAY EDITION

# THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

4001 Harding Road Nashville, TN 37205

25 April 2008

Vol. LXIV, No. 7

## VU Professor Misunderstands, But Recants

by Pat Killian  
Staff Writer

As part of Vanderbilt University's "Thinking Outside the Box" lecture series, Professor Richard Blackett of Vanderbilt University delivered a paper earlier this year on Montgomery Bell – the man – and his involvement in the Liberia colonization movement.

He began his speech with a wry side comment about Montgomery Bell's will, specifically that "the will stipulated a bequest to open a school for 'indigent boys,'" and then he remarked, "Clearly something went awry with that part of Montgomery Bell's plan, too."

The comments later came to the attention of members of the MBA community when they were transcribed along with the rest of Professor Blackett's speech in Vanderbilt's quarterly alumni magazine, which happens to be delivered to quite a few MBA alumni and faculty members as well. The article created a slight stir, to say the least: the magazine received more responses concerning Professor Blackett's article than it had for any previous piece.

For Director of Alumni and Development Scott O'Neal, the article constituted "a misrepresentation of MBA in terms of financial aid and being open to all members of the community." Professor Blackett seemed to assert that MBA was "clearly" an elitist institution, the one stereotype that the school battles most strongly against.

In reality, MBA has an incredibly

strong financial aid program. The school employs an outside source to assess the

need of its families and is then able

to provide for 71% of this need; in doing so the school offers \$1.2 million in financial aid to 20% of the student body.

In admissions (which are need-blind), the school attracts boys from 41 different schools (not just a handful of private feeder schools).

Additionally, MBA provides entirely expenseless exchange opportunities and special tuition remissions to

faculty members. In short, the

school goes well out of its way to open its "imposing iron gates" to a vast array of boys. The only real barrier to attending the school is scholarly ability; no one denies the tremendous amount of work that must be done here.

Concerning Montgomery Bell's will, Professor Blackett slightly misconstrued its stipulations. Bell wanted to found a feeder school for the University

of Nashville (a college here at that time) at a time when the scholastic community

was dwindling due to the Civil War, and he wanted boys from Nashville's five surrounding counties to be able to attend, regardless of financial status. "We really have always had [this financial diversity]," says Mr. O'Neal. "I hear stories all the time from alumni who themselves or their parents would not have been at MBA without financial aid, and I'm talking about guys in their sixties, seventies, eighties!"

Following the publication of the article in the administration

invited both Professor Blackett and the magazine's editor, Gaynelle Doll, to visit and tour MBA in order to clear up any misperceptions. The results of these meetings were overwhelmingly positive. Mr. Blackett and Ms. Doll both understood the school's reaction and explained they did not intend to offend. As it turns out, Mr. Blackett's comments about MBA were misplaced in the

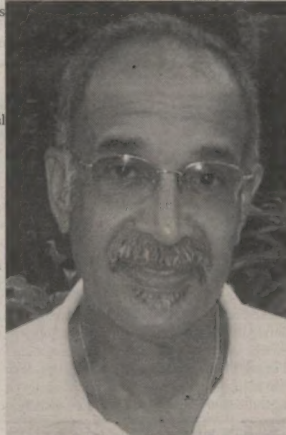
transcription to a position of exaggerated prominence.

Professor Blackett was very impressed with the school's aid program; in a later interview for this paper, he stated, "I left [MBA] with the distinct impression that I did not have to tell Mr. O'Neal what the school needed to do... to open its doors to a greater diversity of students."

Ms. Doll has said she plans to publish several of the letters she received following the article's publication in the magazine's next issue, which should be printed some time in June.

In the administration's view, this rather negative event has produced a decidedly positive outcome. The school hopes to become good friends with Professor Blackett, a very learned historian of 19<sup>th</sup> century antislavery movement and generally, as described by Mr. O'Neal, "a very nice and interesting guy. Mr. O'Neal has also expressed hopes to collaborate with Vanderbilt Magazine on future alumni stories, as the two schools share so many scholars. "I view this as an episode that wasn't very good, had some pretty upset folks," concludes Mr. O'Neal, "but we have created a situation with great communication and turned it into something much better with more understanding."

Professor Blackett's article can be found online by searching for "Best Laid Plans" on Vanderbilt Magazine's website, <<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/vanderbilt-magazine/>>.



Professor Blackett of Vanderbilt University

## Montgomery Bell: A Refreshing Look at Our Founder

by Rashá Harvey  
Staff Writer

Since Founder's Day is this week, I want the student body to be more aware of our beloved founder, Montgomery Bell. Other than short excerpts about his vision for the school, many of us leave the Hill without any concrete knowledge about him. Montgomery Bell's life was a complex one, filled with eccentric personal qualities, great business acumen, and an important role as both a slave owner and emancipator.

Montgomery Bell was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania in 1769 to wealthy parents who were active in colonial activities. People described him as wild and cruel. Yet, he is depicted by some as caring and nice to his family.

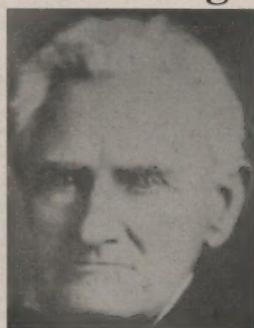
Our founder made a fortune selling rakes and skillets to distributors across the country. Bell also supplied the Federal Government with cannon balls, gun powder, and whiskey in

the Battle of New Orleans. According to Huddleston, a local historian, "He had something for everybody, from the hillside cabin farmer to the plantation colonel of lush river bottoms."

The wide variety of items Bell sold contributed to his enormous wealth. Furthermore, *The Cheatham County Tennessee Bible and Tombstone Records* describe Bell as

"the wealthiest man in the South before the Civil War; he owned 50,000 acres of land, 400 negroes, and 400 mules. He was a pioneer in iron manufacturing in Tennessee."

A major complement to his success were the over 300 slaves who



The only known photograph of Montgomery Bell

participated in building his iron manufacturing business. Bell's slaves helped him with his greatest accomplishment, the digging of the Narrows Tunnels. The Tunnels are a natural preserve with a waterfall and deep swimming hole near the Harpeth River in Cheatham and Dickson counties. However, the beautiful place his slaves helped create came at a high price. Violent punishments were applied to those slaves he deemed "disobedient" or "untrustworthy."

During his later years, it is said that Bell's personality became more restrained. One modern document says

Bell was "to some a saint, to some a devil." The American Colonization Society was the primary mechanism through which Bell became an emancipator. If you are forgetful of your intensive study of U.S. History at MBA, the American Colonization Society was sponsoring a relocation of slaves to the newly-created African nation of Liberia. Bell freed over 88 slaves, providing the funding necessary for their travel to Liberia. Unfortunately, many of the freed slaves ended their lives tragically in Liberia because of disease and fighting with the natives.

Montgomery Bell, the man with the fierce and piercing eyes, died in 1855 on his Dickson County estate that today bears the name of a state park in his honor.

In my next column, I will expand on Bell's vision to endow a school for indigent boys. Is MBA living up to Bell's vision? What can the school do to further the notion of providing a high-quality education to all boys?





## THE BELL RINGER

Will Orman  
Editor-in-Chief

### ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Johnny Mishu, *Sports*

Jay Milam, *News*

Brian Swenson, *Features*

Michael Downing and Alan Schulman, *Entertainment*

Taylor Smyth, *Business Manager*

Will Holt, *Assistant Business Manager*

Mr. Anderson Gaither, *Faculty Advisor*

Mrs. Anne Christeson, *Faculty Advisor*

MEMBER, TENNESSEE HIGH SCHOOL PRESS ASSOCIATION

*The Bell Ringer* is a non-profit newspaper operated and published by and for the students of Montgomery Bell Academy, who are its intended audience. Views expressed in *The Bell Ringer* do not necessarily represent those held by the staff or school.

Letters to the Editor are encouraged and can be delivered to its office, the Faculty Advisors, the Editors, or sent to [bellringer@mc.montgomerybell.com](mailto:bellringer@mc.montgomerybell.com) (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into First Class). These letters must be signed; *The Bell Ringer* neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

The staff of *The Bell Ringer* prepares all copy, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy. Franklin Web Printing in Franklin, Tennessee, prints the paper.



A shot of the post-Katrina wreckage in Bay St. Louis

# The American Tragedy: Must We Artificially Enhance Our Innate Skills?

by Jon Eisen

Some of life's greatest miseries come from a failure to reach expectations. The "American Dream" suggests that everything is attainable with hard work. It is so American to use all means possible and exert maximal effort to attain goals. When failure begins to occur, we are willing to do anything to find an edge. There is no difference in cheating on a math test to get into some college or injecting anabolic steroids in order to achieve athletic success. Both instances are results of the American tragedy, an evolution of the "American Dream."

American society encourages exaggerated expectations and, hence, inevitable failure. Over the years, sports have been a clear reflection of society. Athletes often take performance-enhancing drugs to find an edge because they are unable to accept the consequences of aging, or they are unable to

accept their own limitations. We are taught that in order to achieve, we must work tirelessly to improve skills and strength. In essence, we are taught that our own innate ability is inadequate. Therefore, we must work even harder in the weight room and on the field.

In the classroom, we are enticed by honor rolls, academic societies, and college admission. Rather than being rewarded for hard work, we are rewarded for our ability to receive some number. This system leads to inevitable failure for most, which can cause a student to try anything for a certain grade. This system leads to the great insecurity of an athlete and a student.

High school sports and academics foster this insecurity. Teenagers, who are already incredibly vulnerable, are taught that anything less than perfection is failure. Since perfection is impossible, an athlete or student undoubtedly will question his own

worth and abilities. Such insecurities lead to athletes searching for edges in all aspects, whether taking protein shakes to creatin to steroids. A student, who is unable to reach expectations finds an edge in the classroom by cheating. All instances are examples of an athlete or student believing that he alone is not good enough to achieve success. This insecurity that is created by society and enriched by sports and school is the American tragedy of athletes and students.

In order to correct this nearly inevitable situation, we must not yield to the institutional and societal definitions of success and create our own. We cannot allow ourselves to get caught up in the expectations of others. Rather, we must look within to find happiness and create our own personal "American Dream." We may not "make the team" or get into the very best college, but we will fulfill our own potential, with pride and satisfaction.

## MBA Students Work On The Gulf Coast During Spring Break

by Daniel Green  
Staff Writer

This past Spring Break, twenty MBA students, three faculty, and two parents traveled down to the still-devastated city of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi to help build a house for a woman whose family had to cut through their roof and swim to safety

because of flooding. Bay St. Louis is where senior Max Webster lived before Hurricane Katrina forced him and his family to move to Nashville, so the trip was a great opportunity to help an area that is important to the MBA community.

On the way down to Bay St. Louis, we stopped in Ruleville, Mississippi to clean up the community's Little League baseball field. We painted the bleachers and dugouts, repaired the fence around the field, and refurbished the infield. We also donated the used baseball equipment that was collected before the trip to the community's baseball program.

The next stop on the trip was the Lagniappe Work Camp in Bay St. Louis.

The Lagniappe Work Camp was set up after Hurricane Katrina as a center for rebuilding houses in the local area. Lagniappe was a lot like summer camp because we stayed in bunks in cabins, ate in a cafeteria, and every volunteer group had different jobs assigned to them each day. We worked on a house for three days, putting up siding, finishing dry-wall, and doing many other jobs. After working on the house, we delivered a donation of

over 100 books to Max Webster's old elementary school.

The Spring Break service trip was not only a rewarding experience but was also a lot of fun. We were able to experience some of the culture and history of the gulf area. In Clarksdale, Mississippi we stayed at the Shack Up Inn, which were slave quarters many years ago that have been converted into cabins where now people may stay while visiting. While there we experienced the history of blues at the Clarksdale Blues Museum. We also got to hear some live blues at the Ground Zero restaurant and some live local New Orleans music style, called "Zydeco," at the Rock 'n' Bowl. After finishing our work in Bay St. Louis, we were able to spend two days in New Orleans, which was a ton of fun.

I would recommend this trip to anyone who would like to go next year. It is a fantastic way to contribute to the hurricane relief effort as well as have a good time and create a lot of great memories with your classmates. The areas that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina still need lots of help to get back to where they were before the hurricane and, they rely on volunteer groups like ours to fix up their communities.



## Dickey Finds New Career in New Pitch

by Sam Page  
Staff Writer

After a precipitous fall out of playoff contention last season, the Seattle Mariners resolved to make major improvement to their weakened pitching staff this winter. They paid out an estimated 48-million dollars for Minnesota Twins right-hander Carlos Silva and traded five players, including top prospect Adam Jones, for Baltimore ace Erik Bédard. Yet a less-heralded new hurler attracted the attention of teammates and media at the M's training camp. MBA alumnus R.A. Dickey ('93) is working towards a spot in the big leagues, on a team now deep in starters, and may have his best shot yet.

Some students and faculty may remember or know of R.A.'s early playing days as a flame-throwing pitcher who led MBA to the 1993 state championship. After this incredible 1993 campaign, the Detroit Tigers selected R.A., already labeled a top prospect, in the 10th round of the MLB draft. He chose to pitch for the University of Tennessee, where expectations remained high. According

Mr. Anderson ('93), Dickey's best friend and catcher throughout high school and college, "He was labeled from the very get-go one of the top 3 pitchers at UT."

He didn't disappoint, winning an unheard of fifteen games his freshman season (for reference, ex-Vanderbilt ace David Price won 2 games his freshman year). Following an All-American college career, Dickey was selected by Texas in the 1<sup>st</sup> round (18<sup>th</sup> overall) of the 1996 amateur draft.

Shortly before he could sign with the Rangers, however, it was discovered he lacked an ulnar collateral ligament. The ulnar collateral ligament, made famous as the tendon repaired in Tommy John Surgery, is essential to the stability of the elbow and, accordingly, pitching. Unable to undergo surgery on a non-existent ligament, Dickey signed with the Rangers for a drastically reduced sum. As he describes it now: "Imagine winning the lottery and then losing the ticket."

R.A. Dickey didn't dwell on his misfortune for long. Mr. Anderson remembers a deliberate change in R.A.'s attitude: "He started thinking, 'This is going to drive me. This is going to make me work a little harder.'"

During his time with Texas, Dickey worked mostly in the minors; occasionally making spot starts for the big league team. Taking the advice of coaches, he began to develop a traditional knuckleball, a low-effort pitch more

suited for his mechanics. A knuckleball is achieved by deadening all spin upon release of the ball, allowing air currents to determine its erratic path to the plate. Dickey's knuckleball evolved out of a knuckle-curve he threw in college and an unknown knuckleball-esque pitch he toyed with in the minors.

The transition wasn't easy. As Coach Anderson remembers it: "He's a power pitcher his entire career. He's throwing fastballs, after fastballs, after fastballs, and now he has to learn a new

pitch, especially a knuckleball, which is incredibly different and difficult to control or to take care of."

Dickey gained that control after signing a minor-league contract with the Milwaukee Brewers in 2007. Assigned to AAA, he returned to Nashville, a welcome but hopefully temporary homecoming. He finished his season with the Sounds 12-6 with a 3.80 ERA. His success earned him the PCL Pitcher-of-the-Year

honors (think AAA Cy Young) and the attention of major league teams.

This winter R.A. signed a minor-league deal with the Minnesota Twins in hopes of cracking the big-league rotation. Not protected by the Twin's 40-man roster, he was selected by the Seattle Mariners in the Rule-5 Draft, held this year in Nashville. (The Mariners, to the surprise of many Seattle fans, made a complicated series of transactions to keep them on their AAA-affiliate to begin the year.) R.A. expressed disappointment, but waited for his chance. He got it when struggling youngster Eric O'Flaherty lost his bullpen job.

He got his first major-league start in two years on April 18<sup>th</sup>, replacing injured ace Erik Bédard. He struggled with his fastball in the first inning, but when he got his knuckleball going, he settled in nicely. R.A. seems to be a big-league pitcher for now, reliever or starter. This time he may just stick around.

Even without certainty about his immediate future with Seattle, R.A. does not mind thinking long term. "The majority of knuckleballers have most of their success from ages 32 to 40, and they win most of their games," said Dickey at camp. His long-time catcher and friend Coach Anderson shares his optimism: "Charlie Huff retired when he was 45, I believe, and Charlie Huff was a knuckleballer. So hopefully his career will be very long."



R.A. Dickey displays his knuckleball grip

## 2008 Big Red Lacrosse

by Jay Milam  
News Editor

With fourteen new varsity players and only eleven veterans returning, many fans around campus were skeptical of how the inexperienced Lacrosse team would fare against perennial state powerhouses such as MUS, McCallie, and Ravenwood. The 2008 lacrosse team has amassed a record of 7-4 (5-2 in-state) and is led by senior captains Mac Berklacich, Swan Burrus (2007 All-State Honorable

led by Sloan Sanders, with a team-high forty-three points and twenty assists, and Kile Garrett, with a team-high thirty goals. George Curtis, Carl Grote, and Swan Burrus are also providing valuable plays for the Big Red offense. The veteran defense is led by seniors Mac Berklacich, with a team-high thirty-four take-aways, Austin Branstetter, Charlie Christofersen, and Jay Milam. Also, junior Bailey Brandon has played a solid year in the goal with 121 saves.



MBA Lacrosse vs. Libertyville High School

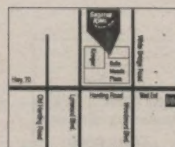
Mention), and Sloan Sanders (2007 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-State).

The team's inexperience showed when it traveled to Atlanta during spring break and lost to Lovett High School 4-10. Utilizing hard work and gaining valuable experience, however, the team is constantly improving and has now beaten teams from four different states. Recently, it lost to a very talented MUS team 8-11, but it has bounced back and avenged one of last year's losses by beating Ravenwood 7-3.

The team's young offense is

While losing six All-State and two All-American players from last year, the lacrosse team attributes hard work, toughness, and game experience as its keys to success. The team is now nearing the end of the regular season and patiently awaiting the state tournament, which is May 3-11. This Friday, the Big Red celebrates Senior Night as it takes on McCallie, marking the last time during the regular season to catch the Big Red in action at home.

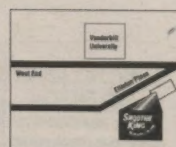
Buy Any Size Smoothie  
Get One Smoothie of  
Equal or Lesser Value FREE!



4546 Harding Pike  
Nashville, TN 37205  
Phone (615) 383-7757

### RESTRICTIONS:

- Expires May 30, 2008
- Original Coupons Only, No copies or downloads
- Cannot be redeemed by combining two smalls/mediums into a large



2422 Elliston Place  
Nashville, TN 37203  
Phone (615) 321-4909

CUT ME OUT AND SAVE

CUT ME OUT AND SAVE



## Juniors Are Seen All Over

by Fadi Pulous  
Staff Writer

With the year quickly coming to an end, the Class of 2009 has enjoyed its penultimate year on the Hill. In this issue, we'll be talking about Exchange Trips, College Plans, Sports, and, of course, the junior off-campus lunch.

To begin things, a select group of MBA juniors has been selected to represent the school this summer at various schools around the world. Lindsifame College, Kings School, Southport School, Winchester, and Eton will all have some MBA visitors this summer. In addition, juniors Will Holt and Alex Martin traveled to Greece for two weeks during the beginning of April for a youth conference meeting in Athens.

Travel will begin quickly, as some depart as early as June, whereas others take to the air around mid-July. Ian Preston, selected to study abroad, has been raving about his upcoming travels and can't wait to experience life outside of MBA.

Switching gears to college plans, the junior class has started looking at and taking the process more seriously as the entire class has finally visited with the college counselors. Well done, gentlemen; it only took three months.

To aid his college decision, Allen Miller, known athlete and semi-genius, decided to miss an entire 7 periods of school to visit that school 5 minutes down the street for Black and Gold Day. It was only a coincidence we had a quiz in history that day, Allen.

Several new school hotspots are also popping up, including NYU, Colorado College, Pitzer, Alabama, and Northwestern. On the recent three-day weekend, some juniors set out with their counterparts at Harpeth Hall and the college counselors to visit colleges in the

Chicago/Mid-West Region. Big schools visited included U Chicago, Northwestern, and Depaul. With the number of college applications peaking next year, the class of 2009 will need to put forth a lot of effort to finish up this year strong and start next year strong as well.

In sports, the junior class has made quite a splash in all aspects. The varsity lacrosse team is enjoying the help of Bailey Brandon, Kyle Garrett, Connor Shope, Scott Ramsey, Sam Lincoln, Trip Shearer, and Crawford Standard. They've helped the Lax team get off to a 6-4 start, with big wins over Pace, Franklin, and Liberty High School.

The varsity soccer team also has some big junior class contribution from Captain Houston Oldham, Robbie Alsentzer, Brandon Dockery, Will Overton, and Max Jarrell. The team began with a 3-2-2 start and enjoyed big game with the visiting New Zealand team on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

The varsity baseball and tennis teams have had major contributions from big-time players as well. More info coming up on both teams as their respective seasons progress.

Now for the most important part of the article, the junior off-campus lunch. People, this lunch was big. Popular lunching resorts included Kebab Gyros, Wendy's, Bellacino's, Andy Lustig's house, Ed P.'s house, and Five Guys. Junior phenom Ed Powell really enjoyed his dining off-campus, and it was great to see his elated face come 7<sup>th</sup> period. Jimmy Balser, class dunce-cap wearer, enjoyed a hearty gyro with his basket of fries and plate of salad. Jimmy now suffers from obesity solely because of that one meal.

Well, that was this past month in review. Hope everyone has a good end to the year and finishes strong on exams.

## Senior Scene

by Max Webster  
Staff Writer

It is with conflicting emotions of excitement, longing, and sadness that the MBA senior class finishes its time on The Hill. For many, May 29 will mark the culmination of six years that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. As I sat down to coffee with an assorted group of seniors last night, listening to the recollections, some funny and some horrifying, I realized that MBA is much more than just a super swank relic of the South and classical civilizations (I've never seen so many columns in my life!). MBA is the memories and the people you hold dear — a brotherhood for life.

With this nostalgic frame of mind, the Class of 2008 is taking advantage of every last, fleeting opportunity to establish our own legacy. Most recently, Rasha' Harvey was the recipient of two very impressive awards. He was named Tennessee's Youth of the Year for the Boys and Girls Club, a prize complete with prestige and several thousand dollars in scholarship money, and he will compete for the same title at the national level this summer. Rasha' also received the Princeton Prize in Race Relations for his work in founding the African-American Studies Club and organizing MBA's participation in the MLK Day March, earning him a trip to Princeton University.

The most notable and audible

buzz around MBA these days would have to be the flurry of recent college decisions. MBA had an excellent year in what is statistically the most competitively selective year for colleges around the nation. MBA students have a host of fantastic offers from schools in every region of the country. In the Northeast, we have admissions from Princeton, Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Cornell, The University of Pennsylvania, Bowdoin, Middlebury, Penn State, and NYU, just to name a few. Moving down along the East Coast, such popular schools as UVA, Richmond, Georgetown, George Washington, UNC, Duke, Furman, and Clemson are all potential destinations for students again. In the South, in-state schools like Vanderbilt, Sewanee, and Tennessee remain among the top choices of the Class of 2008, with Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Auburn, Mississippi, and Kentucky all in the hunt as well. Out West, Colorado, Stanford, and UC Berkeley will make wonderful future homes for seniors. The nationwide diversity of destination marks MBA's achievement of becoming a true national preparatory school.

None of our achievements in college admissions would have been possible without the help and guidance of the college counseling team, especially Mr. Terry Giffen, a man who did everything within his power to grant us every option we desired. The senior class will always be grateful to Mr. Giffen and wishes him well at his new home.

## Freshmen News for the Fourth Quarter

by Andrew Powell  
Staff Writer

I'd like to begin this column by thanking all the freshmen who helped out with the Richland Creek Run. A strong group of guys were up at the crack of dawn, on a Saturday morning no less, to help out with the race, and due to their efforts the class was able to raise over \$400 for the Autism Society of Middle Tennessee!

Now on to the miscellaneous individual accolades recently bestowed on freshmen. Ian Sharbel on April 20<sup>th</sup> achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Congrats, Ian! In the State Math Competition at Lipscomb, John Wyse (Geometry), Van East (Geometry), Stephen Bedard (Alg II), John "Carter" Callaway (Alg II), Connor Caldwell (Alg II), and Paul Van Pernis (Alg II) all placed in the top 10 in their divisions. Way to go, "mathletes"! Back on the Hill, Jack Hallemann continues to excel at guessing the answer to "Colonel Crunch" popsicle stick jokes in 6<sup>th</sup>-period lunch.

Socially, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Prom-Not" was held at MBA a few Saturdays ago. The great event raised \$548, which, at \$5 a person, means 109 and 3/5ths people showed up! That's what I'd call a success.

Athletically, Spring sports are in full swing. The Track and Field team, boasting the likes of freshmen Jimmie

Anderson, Paul Bamson, Nick Bessette, Connor Caldwell, Hampton Farr, Tyler Franks, Alex Gant, Sam Givens, Chris Goodrich, Will Gormley, Ryan Hill, John Hughart, De'Ante Hughes, Will McCaskill, Chase Owen, Michael Peters, Andrew Powell, Partha Reddy, Brian Roberson, Chris Sandwith, Zemel Shropshire, Cedric Smith, Philip Spelman, Cooper Thomas, Andrew Wright, and Van East, is off to a strong start and hopes to round out its season with a win in Freshman City on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Congratulations are due to the 4x100 relay team of Nick Bessette, Tyler Franks, De'Ante Hughes, and Chase Owen, who recently set a new freshman class record, and to Ryan Hill, who continues to run PRs and dominate in the 1600.

In lacrosse, Clay Adams, Hayes McCord, and Connor Pagnani are playing on varsity; in tennis, Russell Anderson and Davis Thraikill represent the frosh on varsity; and on the soccer pitch, Alex Blanton, Alex Luna, Ford Emerson, Clay McDonald, and Ryan Shepherd all contribute to the strong varsity team.

I'm pleased to say, the class has maintained focus and determination in the final stage of the school year. To end on the highest note possible, it is an honor to announce that the class has continued to have, year to date, zero honor offences! Great job guys, and keep it up in these final weeks.

## CAESAR'S RISTORANTE ITALIANO



Lions Head Village  
72 White Bridge Rd.  
Nashville, TN 37205

Take Out \* Delivery  
352-3661  
352-7326  
Fax 352-0052

### BUFFET DAILY

#### ATTENTION!

ALL MBA STUDENTS

GET OUR LUNCH BUFFET

FOR \$3.00 W/ WATER AND

\$1.00 W/ SODA DRINK

TAX INCLUDED

CAESAR'S RISTORANTE ITALIANO

352-3661

### BUY 1

SPAGHETTI DINNER

GET 1 FREE

OFFER GOOD

4 PM TO 10 PM DAILY

CAESAR'S RISTORANTE ITALIANO

352-3661

### \$10 OFF

ANY 2 DINNER ENTREES

WITH PURCHASE OF 2ND SOFT DRINK

OFFER GOOD

4 PM TO 10 PM DAILY

CAESAR'S RISTORANTE ITALIANO

352-3661



## ETS Makes Changes In The AP Exams

by Pat Killian  
Staff Writer

Seemingly out of the blue a few weeks ago the Educational Testing Service (ETS), which produces the SAT and AP exams, announced a change in its AP curriculum: the flat-out cancellation of four AP courses - Latin Literature (Lyric), French Literature, Computer Science, and Italian - effective in fall 2009.

ETS's decision has stirred controversy over its, primarily, monetary motive. The organization cancelled courses that have exhibited small or flagging enrollment in recent years, while more "popular" courses, such as AP Spanish Literature, remained untouched. Such selectivity on the part of ETS seems to rule out any educational interests. Insightfully, Dr. Gaffney remarked that he felt such a change was foretold when the URL of College Board (another branch of ETS) switched from "collegeboard.org" to "collegeboard.com."

Whether ETS has sold its soul or not, MBA now faces a quandary in its curriculum. AP French Literature has not been offered for a number of years, but AP Latin Lyric and AP Computer Science are both well-liked classes (even if Computer Science is always tiny). In the Language Department, Department Head and Latin teacher Dr. Richard Seay has recommended that 4<sup>th</sup>-year Latin students take Lyric next year and Vergil the following year (when the Lyric AP exam will be cancelled) if they wish to take AP exams in both. (Students usually take the courses in the reverse order.) However, even after offering this advice, Dr. Seay has not yet made a final

decision concerning Lyric's fate at MBA. The simple lack of an AP exam in the spring does not have to necessitate the cancellation of the class. The question the various departments now struggle with is whether or not students can overcome the prevalent attitude of "If it's not AP, why take it?"

The importance of ETS-created tests in the college admissions process and in the overall evaluation of a student's prowess has hammered such narrow-mindedness into competitive high-schoolers everywhere. To take a non-AP course a student would have to be motivated by sheer love of the subject and be able to overcome or ignore college-oriented pressures. Sadly, MBA's preparatory school atmosphere does not really seem like the climate in which such an attitude could thrive. Former Dean of Yale Law School Anthony Kronman wrote a book, *Education's End*, in which he weighs the values of education for education's sake against those of specific, research-oriented learning. With ETS' decision, MBA - its administration and its student body - may soon have to pick a side itself.

There is still a chance, however, that such a storm will blow over. The American Classical League (ACL) is currently formulating strategies to overhaul ETS's decision regarding Latin Lyric and, in the words of president Sherwin Little, is pursuing "many possible solutions or alternatives to the out-and-out cancellation." A petition to College Board is available at <<http://classics.ning.com/forum>>.

## Math Contest Results

Here are the results from the Lipscomb regional site for the State Math Contest. Congratulations to those who placed!! - Mr. Elliott

### Algebra I:

2nd Bu, Tom

3rd Tidwell, Hunter

4th Arteaga, David

6th Doebler, Austin

10th Wang, Kevin

### Geometry:

2nd Chen, Zachery

3rd East, Van P

7th Wyse, John W

10th Scherrer, Joseph

### Algebra II:

1st Deng, Jichao

2nd Bedard, Stephen

4th Callaway, John

5th Caldwell, Connor

6th Van Pernis, Paul

### Statistics:

2nd Lassing, Fitz

4th Todd, Daniel

5th Killian, Pat

6th Henry, Will

### PreCalculus:

3rd Sastry, Rahul

4th Mecklenborg, Karl

5th Shope, Connor L

6th Swenson, Brian

7th Powell, Andrew

9th Carr, Kevin

### Calculus:

1st Zienkiewicz, Krzysztof

3rd Branstetter, Austin

4th Downing, Michael and Snow, Andrew

7th Arteaga, Daniel and Hannon, Will,

10th Waddey, Christian

## New Department Chairs

by Brian Swenson  
Features Editor

MBA will be proud to welcome three new department chairs for the 2008-2009 school year.

Coach Elliott's departure will leave a vacancy in the Math Department, which will allow Dr. Shackleford to step in as the interim chair. Coach E insists that Dr. Shackleford "needs no advice," since he has served previously in that role. Dr. Shackleford has the patience and calm temperament so necessary for managing any of the departments.

Mrs. Palmore is stepping down after serving as the English Department chairperson for many years. Her successor has not been selected yet because there are multiple candidates vying for the job. She states, "My advice [to the new chairperson] is to stay organized, listen to your colleagues, and be aware that personnel issues and paper work are two important aspects of the job. Working with teachers in the English Department at MBA is a distinct honor."

After a very long run as the History Department chairman, Mr. Herring will be stepping aside to allow Dr. Bailey to take over the reins of the History Department. Mr. Herring insists that Dr. Bailey "should read up on the 'history wars' because there is such a thing—believe it or not!"

To obtain further insight on the inner workings of the History Department, I spoke to Dr. Bailey to find out what his plans are for his new position.

Dr. Bailey believes that "changes in Department Heads bring a healthy infusion of new teachers, who help to bring about new ideas to the mechanics of how the department is run." He appreciates Mr. Herring's 20-plus great years of service to MBA in this capacity but acknowledges that Mr. Herring is ready to have someone else take over.

He sees this position as an opportunity to help incorporate all

members of the History Department into fostering and implementing new ideas, such as having better coordination between junior school and high school courses and developing the existing overlap with courses of other disciplines. He states, "I hope that we will look at existing courses and the sequencing of those courses to improve the flow of courses. We will also look at the possibility of changing courses, although we don't want the throw the baby out with the bathwater. And the History Department has tremendous potential for offering additional senior electives and providing bridges between departments because of the discipline's content."

Dr. Bailey is open to the possibility of having a system of alternating department heads, since he sees that "changing department heads helps foster a sense of dynamism within the department, and it has led me to be more proactive and approach [teaching] with a greater sense of energy." It is true that many schools rotate department chairs with regularity for this very reason.

Dr. Bailey has been interested in history since he was a small child, when he would collect and pore over books and other documents given to him by older relatives. He says, "I was an archivist for old relics of the past and gradually moved more in the direction of history's interpretative aspects, but I'm still a junk collector, as you can see from my room!" He appreciates history as "a place where you can always go back and reinterpret something, which may shed light on current events."

He lastly says, "I am very excited about this opportunity because I think that it will make me a better teacher since I'll be more engaged in looking at how effective learning happens. I am glad that I have a wonderful group of colleagues to help me."

## Full Moon Film Festival Is Growing

by Alvin Kim  
Staff Writer

The Full Moon Film Festival's primary goal is "using the power of film to attract students from all backgrounds, technical, and artistic abilities to embrace media technology." Three weeks ago, this goal was truly met. MBA faculty member and event founder Andrew Rozario is enthused by the turnout this year.

The annual Full Moon Film Festival, hosted by MBA, is in its second year of existence. Never has a program at MBA seen such a growth within one single year. With a fifty percent growth in overall entries, including six MBA student entries (up from one last year), and involvement from thirteen public and private schools, the festival's development is colossal. Unlike last year, where a scattered group of about thirty parents and students attended, moviegoers this year overflowed Pfeffer Auditorium (which seats about 160 people) for the three-hour showing of the films.

The Festival judges gave out 10,000 dollars in cash prizes, and created a fourth-place spot because the films were so excellent. MBA's very own Nick Burn and Jimmy Russell received second place with their video, "Backyard Bombing: Z. Alexander Lobby", in which they describe the civil rights movement in Nashville. First place went to Stratford High student Emily Thompson and her movie, "A New Depression," where she discusses the growing effects of poverty, or lack of, on both her school and others in the Tennessee area. Also included in her award was the screening of her film at the Nashville Film Festival.

MBA students are again encouraged to consider the Festival for next year as it gets even more competitive. In order to see the winning videos or to find out more information about the Festival visit [www.fullmoonfilmfestival.com](http://www.fullmoonfilmfestival.com).



## It Is Not Just A Car: Lucky Physics Students Ride With Dr. Clark

by Brian Swenson  
Features Editor

Slant-6 engine? Check.  
Mountain Dew can in carburetor? Check.  
Rusted floor? Check. Still operating?  
Debatable. Legend? For sure.

Only a select few Physics students have the privilege to ride in Dr. Clark's 1980 brown Dodge Aspen every year. To gain entrance into this holy of holies, a team in one of Dr. Clark's Physics classes must vanquish its other foes in a grueling combat of Physics Jeopardy—Dr. Clark's Jeopardy! spin-off with topics ranging from physics to (you guessed it) the 1980 brown Dodge Aspen.

My team, consisting of Fadi Pulous, Robbie Alsentzer, Harrison Stringfellow, Allen Miller, Barrett Jacques, and me, called "Bo Scaife" (which Dr. Clark pronounced as Scaif-ee), won by a decent margin, thanks in part to the other teams' negative scores after the first round. The competition was held a few days before mid-term exams, and it was agreed that we would receive our ride in the second semester.

That glorious day finally came on March 13. We took off second period (minus Harrison, who was not at school, and Allen, who was doing physics) and decided to go to Starbucks.

It was an humbling experience to enter such a legendary machine. The exhilaration of hearing the engine start for the first time was coupled with Dr. Clark's exclaiming, "Listen to that baby purr", to create a thrilling start to the ride.

I sat shotgun on top of various yarn-like pillows and blankets, while the others rode in the back. The first thing we

noticed was that the dashboard was torn up, which Dr. Clark explained was from a girlfriend getting mad at him, for a reason that he cannot recall, and then banging the dash. Well, that was it for her...

The gear indicator is missing ("It just fell off," said Dr. Clark), so Dr. Clark must visually measure the angle of the lever to tell the gear.

We arrived at Starbucks in a few minutes, but it was difficult to exit the car due to the sea of envious people surrounding the 1980 brown Dodge Aspen. After ordering our drinks, we made our way back toward MBA. I accidentally hit the roof inside the car, causing unknown particles, which we called "asbestos," to fall from the top and into my eyes.

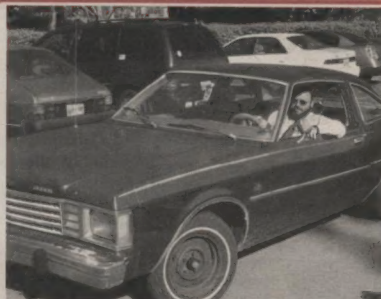
Not wanting to return before the end of the period, we drove to Elmington Park and then got on the interstate.

Unfortunately, there was a great deal of traffic, which thwarted our attempt to reach the Aspen's top speed of "greater than or equal to 85 miles per hour."

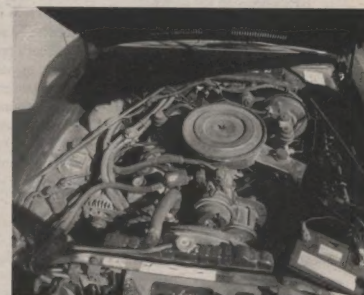
We returned a few minutes into break with a story to tell for the rest of our lives.

Dr. Clark and all of his students would like to thank the geniuses at Wood's Garage who have somehow managed to keep the 1980 brown Dodge Aspen on the road for 29 years.

We hope that the Aspen will hold up for another 29 to give future generations of MBA physics students a chance to appreciate the depth of love a man can have for a car and recount their own tale of unparalleled awe and excitement.



Dr. Clark: Hoss



The enigmatic inner workings

## MBA Talent Show Brings Magic To The Campus

by Jimmy Balsler  
Staff Writer

The electricity in the air outside of Wallace Hall on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> may be impossible to describe with words, but I will do my best. Try to imagine the excitement: the piercing smell of burnt popcorn, the feel of a plush, grassy lawn on your behind, and the anticipation that something beautiful is about to happen. Oh yes, MBA's got talent.

The extravaganza began with a display of musical prowess from the freshman class. A band consisting of Cooper Thomas, John Wyse, Ryan Hill, as Alec Martin put it, "rocked our socks off," with their covers of numerous Led Zeppelin classics.

Following them was the soothing acoustic guitar of Will Henry, who seduced many a young woman that night with his cool melodies. Also, the audacity it must have taken to wear the hat he had on stage is simply astounding.

Soon after was what turned out to be the most popular musical performance of the night: 14 Dollars the Hard Way. Hicks Woolwine led the troop, while Mac Frith played drums, and Edward Williams provided back up vocals on such epic hits as "If You Want to be My Lover" and my personal favorite "Take on Me". Jeff Francis blew away the crowd with the guitar and his questionable ability to slip into a shirt that might have fit an 8-year old hipster. Special mention goes to Wyatt Redd, who not only led vocals on the crowd pleasing "Communication Breakdown", but also managed to lose his shirt at the end. I personally saw five or

six MBA mothers swoon over the bare-chested brilliance.

Next up were the revered artistic talents of juniors Bradford Norton and Austin Archer. Their acoustic flair not only filled the quad with great music, but also filled our hearts with that warm, anarcho-punk love you can only receive from MBA's hoodie-wearing community.

After Alec Martin and Will Holt led a rousing "Happy Birthday" for Fadi Pulous, Vincent Camarata (official talent show winner) took the stage. Using nothing but two mop sticks and a homemade, techno remix, Vincent brought out some intense martial arts skills. In the process Vincent did away with the ancient misconception that "white men can't jump" as he leapt gracefully on and off the platform.

Finally the seniors brought their musical skills on display. The extremely talented Bellet brothers started off the act with the masterful Zach Sternberg. Next, Luke and Clay Johnson played some great country tunes, but what soon followed was one of the strangest and most popular acts of the night. While Luke and Clay contributed sultry vocals, Dane Daniels and Ben Bartholomew led an interpretive dance on an interspecies (?) relationship between a lunch woman and her Sloppy Joe. Their antics were awarded a well-respected 3<sup>rd</sup> prize. More than a few impassioned tears fell from Ben's eyes at the applause. It would be safe to say that no one left the MBA talent show unchanged...and probably not for the better.

**SIGNS FIRST.**

**Let Us Help You With...**

- Full Color Digital Printing
- Banners
- Yard Signs
- Magnetics
- Vehicle Wraps & Lettering
- And Much More....

PH 615.297-5681

EMAIL INFO@SIGNSFIRST1.COM

TO FIND OUT MORE CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE  
[WWW.SIGNSFIRST1.COM](http://WWW.SIGNSFIRST1.COM)

MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY RECEIVES A 10% DISCOUNT

**We Have Moved!**  
710 Berry Road  
Nashville, TN 37204

**SIGNS FIRST**



# **G** A. JOEL GLUCK ORTHODONTICS

**A. Joel Gluck** DDS, MS

Board Certified Orthodontist

*Father of Daniel ('03) and Jonathan ('04) Gluck*

Green Hills

2002 Richard Jones Road, Suite A-200

Nashville, TN 37215

Phone 615.269.5903 • Fax 615.269.5604

[www.drgluck.com](http://www.drgluck.com)





## Genghis Grill Offers Cheap, Delicious Delights

by Daniel White  
Staff Writer

In the past few years Nashville has "stepped up its game" and become home to several new developments, including housing, shops, and restaurants. Ethnic restaurants especially have mushroomed.

One favorite here in town among MBA students and teachers is the Asian-inspired restaurant Genghis Grill. With locations in Hendersonville and Cool Springs, it finds its singularity through its food.

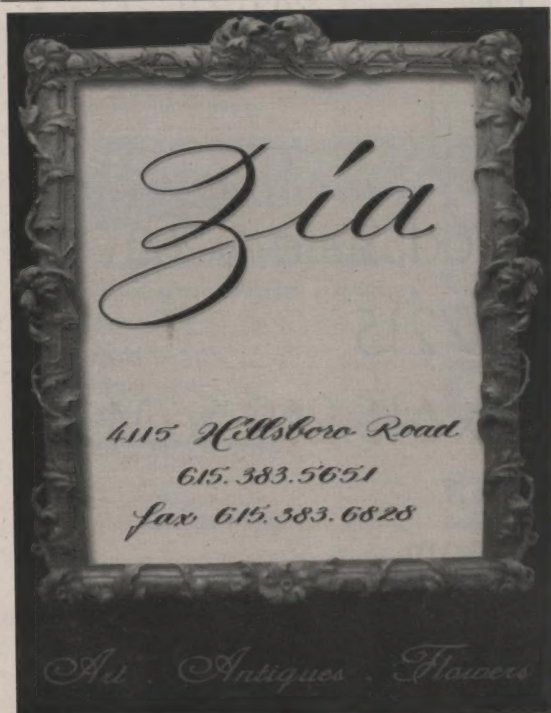
Many people enjoy Genghis Grill because the customer creates his own "bowl." When you step into the restaurant with its modern Asian décor and are seated by one of the courteous hosts, you are then guided to the prep station of food.

First, you "build your bowl," in which the customer chooses between several meats, poultry, and seafood to create his own bowl. Next, you

season your meat with a cornucopia of seasonings, not just your ordinary salt and pepper. Then, you choose some vegetables, with a wide selection from sprouts to onions to tomatoes. Afterwards, you choose a sauce to compliment the meat and vegetables. Finally, you choose a starch, including noodles and fried rice. Your creation is then stir-fried by the chefs at Genghis Grill, and after a 5-10 minute cooking time, your bowl is complete.

One good perk about Genghis Grill is that for around \$8, you get a gourmet meal, of your creation, and it's actually very filling. Also for around \$12, there is an all-you-can eat option in which you can go as many times through the line as you want.

I would recommend this restaurant to anyone because of its price, deliciousness of food, and its creativity.



## Alan And Michael Go to the Movies, Mid-Spring Edition

by Alan Schulman and Michael Downing  
Entertainment Editors

**21** - Though *Across the Universe* could have easily launched Jim Sturgess to stardom, his follow-up, high-budget film, *21*, just isn't up to par. However, the movie is by no means bad. The plot is captivating enough, and the actors are all superb (other than a few accent slips), but I suppose when compared to the masterpiece that is *Across the Universe*, any standard psycho-thriller will seem a little dull. But still, *21* is definitely worth seeing, especially for you blackjack fans out there.

**Run Fatboy Run** - Definitely not Simon Pegg's best work, *Run Fatboy Run* sets its audience up for disappointment. While the plot could have easily focused on the "stupid comedy" concept implied by the film's title, things got way too serious. Though it had its moments, the entire movie is one big predictable cliché. After the first half, *Run Fatboy Run* really has nothing to offer.

**Funny Games** - The director successfully conveyed his message, but in doing so he delivered one of the most disturbing and anti-cathartic movies to his audience. This movie starts on a mild note, and then slowly kills your spirits as you watch, only to be interrupted by the rolling of the credits. If you are looking for an insightful

message disguised as the most disturbing time of your life, this is your movie.

**Horton Hears a Who!** - This movie definitely will appeal to its target audience, and maybe even to those not six years old. (*Terminator 2*, however, appeals to all ages!) This movie was true to Dr. Seuss' story, with some embellishments, and had fantastic animation. If you have seen every other movie of interest to you, it wouldn't hurt you to see this one.

**Leatherheads** - And all this time I thought George Clooney had finally given up on his acting career! Despite being a football-oriented movie (which tends to be either hit or miss), *Leatherheads* falls in the mediocre category. Action is limited, while dialogue isn't too captivating, but these weaknesses are made up for by some mad acting skills. Though I would prefer to see Georgy robbing a casino, he doesn't make too bad a bad football coach.

**Prom Night** - This movie was definitely entertaining, but it was a bit too predictable. You knew when a kill scene was coming and how it would end. However, there was solid acting from some promising young stars. If you're in search of a decent horror flick, this is the movie for you.

## Spring Sports Stats

compiled by Kyle Brantley

### Baseball

Date	Winner	Loser
3/10/08	Centennial 5	MBA 1
3/12/08	MBA 14	Dickson County 4
3/13/08	MBA 20	Hillsboro 2
3/15/08	O'Connor 4	MBA 0
3/17/08	MBA 6	McAlester 5
3/17/08	MBA 9	Kingman 2
3/18/08	MBA* 4	Paradise Valley* 4
3/19/08	Quartz Hill 11	MBA 1
3/25/08	MBA 12	McGavock 1
3/26/08	MBA 27	USN 1
3/28/08	MBA 14	Rossvie 1
3/31/08	MBA 4	BA 2
4/2/08	BA 11	MBA 2
4/7/08	BGA 6	MBA 1
4/10/08	BGA 8	MBA 4
4/11/08	BGA 7	MBA 5
4/14/08	MBA 10	Ensworth 0
4/15/08	Franklin 11	MBA 0
4/16/08	MBA 3	Ensworth 0
4/18/08	MBA 9	Ensworth 2
4/19/08	MBA 5	BA 1

Record - 12-8-1

### BATTING AVERAGE

1. Johnny Mishu .575
2. Jas Rader .467
3. Andy McLaughlin .438

### RBI

1. Johnny Mishu 23

### PITCHING LEADERS

- Record- Wilson Nealy 3-0
- ERA- Johnny Mishu 2.51

cont. on p. 10



## From Claude Monet to Salvador Dali: The Frist's Current Exhibit Will Delight You

by Sully Mehio  
Staff Writer

For all those interested in the world of art, this exhibit is definitely one of the Frist's best. I encountered fine sculptures, ornate quilts, and other variations of creativity – not just paintings. With works by legends such as Vincent Van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, and Pierre Auguste Renoir, this collection of extraordinary modern art did not fail to impress me.

Admission is free for those 18 and under, so you don't have to pay a dime to see the whole thing. In addition, instead of those bulky tape players we see at so many museums, the Frist has generously replaced them with more convenient iPod Nanos to explain the context of the art and the artists.

The paintings are assorted in chronological order, starting with the Impressionists and ending with the Surrealists. I began by observing several paintings, such as Berthe Morisot's *Reading* (shown to the right) and a portrait by the renowned Gustave Courbet. The simple beauty captured by the Impressionists is what makes them famous – their works are impressive to see in books and on the internet, but they are even better in person. I was looking at the same paintings in a whole new perspective.

I encountered some very interesting sculptures, including *The Thinker* by Auguste Rodin. Being unfamiliar with this type of art, I didn't recognize a lot of the works – but that didn't stop me from thinking how finely chiseled they were, and what must have gone through the sculptors' minds as they created them.

As I went on, I was able to see some great paintings I had never seen before, despite being done by the world's greatest modern artists. In one room, I saw works by Vincent Van Gogh, Edgar Degas, Claude Monet, Henri Matisse, and Paul Cezanne. This collection truly did include some of the art world's 'best kept secrets'. Vivid colors, dream-like abstracts, astonishing detail, and warm atmospheres gave these paintings certain qualities found in only in the best pieces of art.

In one room there is a 'mini-exhibit' dedicated to the ornate quilt works of Angelo Filomeno (*End of Presumption* shown to the far right). This was, by far, my favorite part of the tour. Beginning with a solid-colored quilt, Filomeno would embroider it with silk, jewels, and other decorative materials. In his 'paintings', Filomeno depicted images of plants, animals, and human skeletons in a grotesque, but at the same time luxurious, manner. The messages implied in the 'paintings' are contrasting struggles between life and death, good and bad, man and woman, and so on. Although some found his work rather shocking, I found it to be very interesting. Filomeno is a modern pioneer in the world of art; despite the disapproval



Berthe Morisot's *Reading*

of some very picky museum-goers, he still managed to shock them – which, as they say, is the sign of a true artist.

My only reservation about the exhibit is that they had only one Salvador Dali painting and only one Rene Magritte painting – their Surrealist selection was very small (but at the same time, proved to be very mind-provoking). Besides that, I came out of the Frist center very satisfied with what I had just seen – I encourage any of you (even those new to art) to go and see it. You won't be disappointed.

The shows run through June 1<sup>st</sup>.



A portrait by Amedeo Modigliani



Angelo Filomeno's *End of Presumption*



## MBA Envirothon Team Takes First Place

by Chunbum Park

Staff Writer

The MBA Envirothon team won 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places in the Central Basin meet at Lebanon on April 16. There were two teams from MBA – the winning first team consisted of Michael Numan, Mitchell Lukens, Wilson Parker, Rahul Sastry, and Edward Powell; Karl Mecklenborg, Sam Page, Krzysztof Zienkiewicz, and I made up the second team.

Mr. Spiegel began the Envirothon initiative around the winter of last year by holding a few meetings during break for the veteran Enviroletes and organizing a tree walk in December, and he continued to seek out other prospective participants, including Rahul Sastry and Krzysztof until the week before the competition.

The five areas of Envirothon are trees, wildlife, aquatics, soil, and the special problem – this year, the special problem was recreation. With Mr. Spiegel's tree guides and through several organized tree walks, the MBA Enviroletes learned to identify various trees including red maple, sugar maple, white oak, and ash based on the leaves, barks, structural habits, etc. The wildlife experts learned the furs, excretory remains, footprints, skulls, scientific names, and nicknames (drakes, hens, cubs) of some one dozen Tennessee wildlife animals. The soils experts knew how to determine the soil qualities and measure the angle of slope on site. All these hands-on identifications and activities were accompanied by questions testing our general knowledge on each of the subjects.

The special problem was quite interesting in that we were able to examine our own biases and myths about eco-friendly recreational activities. We read about how off-road vehicles and all-terrain vehicles damage the environment by causing erosion and noise pollution. Especially interesting was the irony company ads that portray such human-made machines rolling around in the remote areas of nature.

The competition ended with several hours dedicated to the review of each question presented to the participants. The awards ceremony followed. Mr. Spiegel wanted to treat the team with a small bite of barbeque, but no such place could be found nearby, and time was running out. With Mr. Spiegel's promise that the team would enjoy the BBQ later on, the team headed back to school, excited to boast of our victory to our peers for all 50 minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> period.

On April 30th, the 1<sup>st</sup> team, composed of Michael Numan, Wilson Parker, Rahul Sastry, Mitchell Lukens, and Edward Powell, will continue competing at the state meet in Knoxville. This will be a two-day, overnight event at Fall Creek Falls State Park (located halfway between Nashville and Chattanooga). Unlike the regional, our team will not only work the written tests but also make a presentation on the special problem in front of a panel of judges.

Mr. Spiegel says that MBA

usually does okay in the written tests but excel with the presentation part and finish around 3<sup>rd</sup> place. With the huge success at the regional, Mr. Spiegel thinks that we have a pretty good chance of winning the state and continuing to the national.

In November of last year I published an interview in Bell Ringer that I had with Mr. Spiegel about the competition, and he had hoped to use the article to make the team more known within the MBA community. In Mr. Spiegel's view, Envirothon is becoming increasingly more important in the 21<sup>st</sup> century when the Earth is suffering deadly environmental problems such as global warming, deforestation, desertification, rapid losses of species, etc. In my view, what makes the Envirothon so important are the drastically distorted views people have about the environment, such as "climate change" and recreation.

The United States is such a clean country that, unlike the more environmentally conscious populations of many other countries, people here fail to realize the urgency of the environmental issue. The sky is so blue and the air is so clean that, like the freshman who gave the speech about the environment at the assembly, people fail to see the direct link between our daily activities and the problems of the Earth. The Earth is so huge, they think, that humans could not possibly alter it (in fact, the Earth is indeed huge in its volume, but the surface area is much smaller—70% of it is water, only a fraction of the remaining 30% is habitable by humans, and many areas, such as the Dead Zone in the Gulf of Mexico, are uninhabitable for any form of life). The argument asserting global warming is the general consensus of the international scientific community and the public discourse worldwide, but some Americans disagree – just as they believed that tobacco was healthy and that intelligent design should be taught in public schools.

The public discourse on the environmental issues has degenerated into a mess similar to the online forum wars in which people refuse to make the intellectual leap and accept the other side of the discussion. These very same disbelievers are concerned only about showing erudition (they feel some sort of intellectual pride for understanding the issue), and they throw out everything else – even the most dire assertions, with contradictions and inconsistencies – to neutralize the mainstream view on the issue. I can compare the current state of environmental discourse to the situation in Tibet, in which the Chinese government accuses the Tibetans of causing violence in response to the protests by the various international human rights groups on the abuses committed by the Chinese guards. Always throw out a "no" to a "yes", a "yes" to a "no". This purposeful contradiction causes the gridlock whereby the Congress can't do anything—nobody's lost, but nobody's won either.

## Sports Stats

cont. from p. 8

### Lacrosse

Date	Winner	Loser
3/7/08	MBA 13	Franklin 8
3/13/08	Lovett 10	MBA 4
3/14/08	MBA 4	Pace 3
3/27/08	MBA 7	Libertyville 6
3/28/08	MBA 12	Dublin Coffman 9
3/29/08	MBA 8	Houston 6
3/29/08	Heritage Christian 12	MBA 7
4/11/08	MUS 11	MBA 8
4/12/08	Christian Brothers 9	MBA 6
4/17/08	MBA 7	Ravenwood 3

Record → 6-4

### Points

Sloan Sanders- 42  
Kile Garrett- 28  
George Curtis- 20

### Goals

Kile Garrett- 28  
Sloan Sanders- 22  
George Curtis- 7

### Assists

Sloan Sanders- 20  
George Curtis- 13  
Swan Burrus- 3

### Take Aways

Mac Berklaich- 30  
Charlie Christofersen- 12  
Austin Branstetter- 11

### Saves

Bailey Brandon- 113

### Track

Highland Games- 1<sup>st</sup>  
1<sup>st</sup>- MBA Shot Put Relay Team- 141 feet & 8.5 inches  
1<sup>st</sup>- MBA 4x800 Relay Team- 8:38.89  
Davidson/Ezell-Harding/DCA- 1<sup>st</sup>  
MidSouth Classic- 4<sup>th</sup>  
1<sup>st</sup>- Shot Put- Ben Bartholomew- 53 feet & 5 inches  
1<sup>st</sup>- Pole Vault- Christian Waddey- 14 feet & 6 inches  
Ensworth/ East Literature/ Brentwood- 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Doug Hall Relays- 1<sup>st</sup>

1<sup>st</sup>- MBA Shot Put Relay Team- 141 feet & 1.5 inches  
1<sup>st</sup>- MBA Discus Relay Team- 415 feet  
1<sup>st</sup>- MBA Pole Vault Relay Team- 42 feet  
JPII, Goodpasture, CPA- 1<sup>st</sup>  
Most Team Points-  
Christian Waddey- 42.5  
Ben Bartholomew- 41.66  
Baker Mulherin- 39.99  
Ryan Venable- 37.66

### Soccer

Date	Winner	Loser
03/26/08	Independence 2	MBA 0
03/28/08	MBA* 1	Franklin* 1
04/01/08	JPII 3	MBA 2
04/05/08	MBA 3	MUS 2
04/10/08	MBA 2	BGA 0
04/12/08	MBA 1	Hillsboro 0
04/16/08	MBA* 1	BA* 1

Record → 3-2-2

### Goals

Houston Oldham- 7  
Ryan Shephard- 1  
Andrew Fletcher- 1  
Matt Wieck- 1

### Tennis

Date	Winner	Loser
03/11/08	MBA 6	USJ 3
03/25/08	MBA 7	Ravenwood 2
4/3/08	McCallie 7	MBA 0
4/10/08	MBA 7	BGA 0
4/14/08	MBA 7	BA 0
4/15/08	MBA 7	FRHS 0
04/18/08	MBA (3 wins)	Hapless

\*St. Xavier's  
Record → 8-1

127 FRANKLIN ROAD, BRENTWOOD

615-376-4444

In the Brentwood House Shopping Center, near the intersection  
of Old Hickory and Franklin Road. Beside Baskin-Robbins Ice Cream

Men's and Women's Lacrosse Equipment  
Heads, Shafts, Protective Gear, Helmets, Apparel, Goals

This coupon entitles the bearer to a **\$10 DISCOUNT** on any purchase.

Monday-Friday 10 to 7

Saturday 10 to 6



# New Overnight Camp

Let your child be the first to experience  
this one-of-a-kind overnight camp!

CAMP  
WIDJIWAGAN  
JOE C. DAVIS YMCA OUTDOOR CENTER

**615-360-CAMP**

[www.ymcacampwidjiwagan.org](http://www.ymcacampwidjiwagan.org)

**YMCA**  
of Middle Tennessee

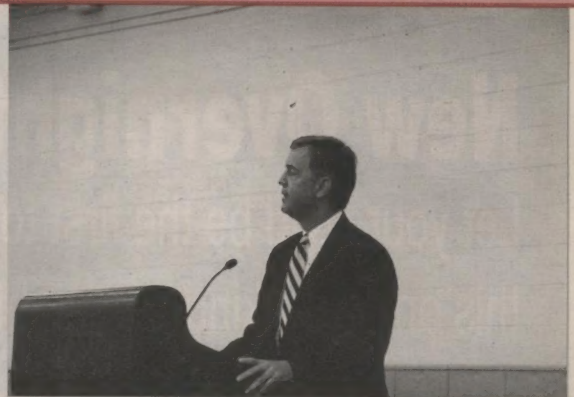
**Opening this summer!**  
**For Boys and Girls grades 4-9.**

Our Mission: A worldwide charitable fellowship united by a common loyalty to Jesus Christ for the purpose of helping persons grow in spirit, mind and body.





Junior-Senior Prom



Mr. Harris speaks at the Mother-Son Breakfast



Morey Hill singing Rock This Town



MBA students in Bay St. Louis

## *Go to the One Acts!*

One Act Plays directed by seniors Bennett Davidson,  
Garrett Anglin, Brendan Mayhew, Jimmy Russell,  
Tom Wall, and Worth Baker!

Friday at 7 and Sunday at 2! Free for MBA students!